



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to provide you with a new Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids! publication entitled: Youth Health Risk Behaviors How Rhode Island Schools Can Use Survey Data to Create a Healthy Environment for Students. Data, key findings and trends in health behaviors, including physical activity and nutrition, tobacco use, sexual activity, alcohol and other drugs, and injury, from the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey are presented as study sheets. The study sheets can be used together or separately to plan broad based or targeted strategies to improve healthful behaviors. The sheets include a context for each risk behavior, presentation of the data on Rhode Island students, ideas on the role of schools in addressing each risk behavior and examples of best practice in Rhode Island schools. Suggestions about the use of other school based data sources like the SALT survey in combination with this information is also included. There are staff contacts from the Rhode Island Departments of Health and Education that you can email for more information pertaining to each risk area. This publication is being sent to all Rhode Island school superintendent, high school principals and middle school principals.

We hope that you will find these study sheets useful for district and school based improvement plans that recognize the critical link between health behaviors and school achievement. Additionally we would like to encourage teachers to use this information as part of classroom-based activities and lessons as applicable. Finally this information can be shared with parents and the broader community during School Report Night or some other venue.

The Departments have been administering the Youth Risk Behavior Survey since 1997. Since it is a statewide random sample most of the middle and high schools in Rhode Island have participated in the implementation of the survey at some point in time. We hope you find this publication useful and welcome your feedback. You can contact Rosemary Reilly-Chammat, School Health Program Manager, Rhode Island Department of Health at 222-5922 with questions or concerns. Thank you.

Peter McWalters
Commissioner
RI Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Sincerely,

David Gifford, MD, MPH
Director
Rhode Island Department
of Health

Telephone (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex,
sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability.